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Lab Laurels
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IF Directorate scientists and engineers honored

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Four Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate scientists and engineers were presented with awards for scientific and technical achievement during the directorate's "Heritage Day" observance Oct. 16.

The awards are named after former Rome Air Development Center (RADC) officials. RADC was established at the former Griffiss Air Force Base in June 1951, redesignated in 1990 as Rome Laboratory, and became part of AFRL in 1997.

Receiving awards for their achievements during the past year were:

— The Maj. Gen. John C. Toomay Award: Capt. John L. Bebo, an airborne signals intelligence systems test engineer in the Information and Intelligence Exploitation Division.

The award honors a commissioned officer for a single notable achievement or outstanding contribution during the previous year, which did not necessarily result in a single notable achievement, but contributed significantly to the overall effectiveness of the program. It is named for RADC's 9th commander, who served from Jan. 16, 1971, to May 22, 1972, and retired in 1979, after serving as deputy chief of staff for Plans and Programs at the former Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

A native of Michigan, Bebo has been a member of the Rome staff for the past 18 months. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and was awarded his master's degree in computer science from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He enlisted in the Air Force in 1985, and received his commission in 1999. Bebo was cited for significant test achievement for a prototype to improve pilot survivability by successfully demonstrating the ability to pinpoint the location of downed pilots at twice the range of current systems. He further improved the system architecture by enabling ground radio interrogation, which is faster and less prone to error than current technology.

— The Harry S. Davis Memorial Award: Vaughn T. Combs, electronics engineer in the Information Systems Division. The award is presented each year to a laboratory scientist or engineer for outstanding technical achievement, usually contributing toward the solution of an operational problem. The award is named for the RADC chief scientist from 1952 to 1960 who later served in high Department of Defense positions, including deputy undersecretary of the Air Force.

Combs, a native of Rome, is a senior software systems developer in the Joint Battlespace Infosphere Group, leading internal advanced platform design, development and integration within the group.

He received both bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical and computer engineering from Clarkson University. A member of the Rome staff for 17 years, Combs was cited for outstanding technical achievement in the development of a freely distributable publish-and-subscribe capability for the Joint Battlespace Infosphere. His work will transform the future information management capability of the Department of Defense.

— The Oliver G. Tallman Memorial Award: Marc J. Pitarys, technical director of the X-45 Joint-Unmanned Combat Air System (J-UCAS) program with the directorate's Information Technology Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The award is named for the RADC director of engineering from 1951 to 1963 and is conferred annually on a scientist, engineer or technician chosen on the basis of outstanding engineering support achievement, the major part of which was contributed to by the individual.

A resident of Dayton, Ohio, Pitarys is responsible for the technical activities related to the X-45 J-UCAS and leads the X-45 government technical team.

He is a native of Nashua, N.H., and received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of New Hampshire. He earned masters' degrees in applied mathematics and management science from the University of Dayton.

Pitarys was cited for outstanding engineering support to the Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle (UCAV) program in the area of advanced mission control. His superior technical knowledge, leadership skills and

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dedication led directly to the successful research, development, testing and evaluation of a UCAV mission control capability for target engagement, air vehicle hand-off, and mission contingency handling delivered for the first-ever UCAV flight test.

— The Joseph J. Naresky Memorial Award: Scott J. Shyne, senior computer scientist in the Distributed Information Systems Branch of the Information Grid Division and a 14-year member of the Rome staff. The award is conferred annually on a laboratory scientist or engineer for outstanding contributions to systems engineering. It is named for the former chief of the Reliability and Compatibility Directorate from its inception until his retirement in 1979.

A native of Manlius, N.Y.Shyne earned an associate's degree from Hudson Valley Community College and earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from the State University of New York Institute of Technology.

Shyne was cited for his outstanding achievements in systems engineering for computer and communications network systems. His efforts to develop multi-level security protocols for networks will ensure that the next generation of Air Force enterprise and combat information systems will be reliable and secure.

Shyne was the recipient of the Air Force Materiel Command 2002 International Award for Armaments Cooperation. He was also the recipient of the 1993 Griffiss Air Force Base Civilian of the Year Award and the Information Directorate's Harry Davis Award in 2000. @